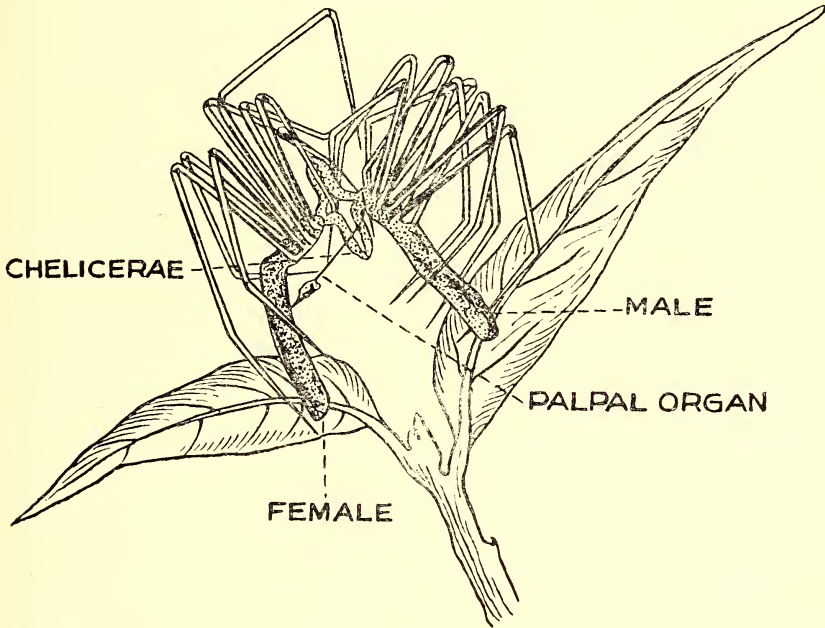


## XXXVIII.—MATING OF THE SPIDER TETRAGNATHA.

(With a sketch).

While I was engaged in collecting spiders from among the foliage of a short graft mango tree I was surprised to see a male *Tetragnatha* speeding along one of the branchlets. I drew back



MATING OF TETRAGNATHA.

and watched its course. In a moment he had grasped a partner in his hands. The partner was a female of about his own size. Her colour was more attractive than his dull brown hue. She yielded to his clasp and never showed any sign of running away from him. They stood facing each other. Their chelicerae met along their edges. In this position they seemed to remain comfortably. The female slightly tucked her abdomen towards her mate. The male began to deposit the sperms into her orifice with his palpal organs. But in doing so he did not use both the pedipalps at the same time. At first he used his right palpal

organ for about a minute. Then he removed it and used his left. In another minute he displaced his left with his right organ once more. Thus the process went on for about three minutes. Then they separated and the male dropped down to the ground by its thread.

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